

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hodges, et al. ) Group Art Unit Unassigned  
Appl. No. : Unknown )  
Filed : Herewith ) I hereby certify that this correspondence and all  
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 ) Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.  
 ) 20231, on  
 ) December 21, 2001  
 ) (Date)  
 ) Rose M. Thiessen, Reg. No. 40,202  
 )  
 )

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application on the merits, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following paragraph after line 1 on page 1:

--This is a continuation of Application No. 09/618,515 filed July 18, 2000, which is a continuation of Application No. 08/981,385 filed April 17, 1998, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,284,125 on September 4, 2001, which was the national phase under 35 U.S.C. §371 of prior PCT International Application No. PCT/AU96/00365, which has an International filing date of June 19, 1996, which designated the United States of America, and which was published by the International Bureau in English on January 3, 1997.--

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REMARKS

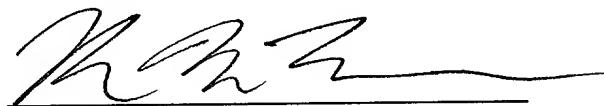
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 12/21/01

By:



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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

Deleted text is indicated by [bracketed boldface]. Added text is indicated by underlined boldface.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

At page 1, after line 1, the following paragraph has been inserted:

--This is a continuation of Application No. 09/618,515 filed July 18, 2000, which is a continuation of Application No. 08/981,385 filed April 17, 1998, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,284,125 on September 4, 2001, which was the national phase under 35 U.S.C. §371 of prior PCT International Application No. PCT/AU96/00365, which has an International filing date of June 19, 1996, which designated the United States of America, and which was published by the International Bureau in English on January 3, 1997.--

AMEND

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